



**Video Statement by H.E. Ms. Paula Narvaez, President of ECOSOC  
*Briefing to the 54th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council  
Thursday, 28 September***

**[Introduction]**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured to address the Human Rights Council this year, in my capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with Resolution 37/25. That resolution called for a more integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the full realization of human rights, focusing holistically on the means of implementation.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to brief the Council on the discussions and key messages from the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) that took place in July this year, under the auspices of ECOSOC. I will also share additional insights from the outcomes of the 2023 HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly - also known as the SDG Summit - which took place in September.

**[Briefing on the HLPF 2023]**

The 2023 HLPF met from 10 to 19 July 2023 under the auspices of ECOSOC. The forum attracted engagement at the highest level, with more than 120 Heads of State and Government, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, Vice Ministers and Ministerial level officials. Over 134 high-level speakers participated in the discussions including experts, mayors and local authorities, representatives of the business sector, women, youth, and other stakeholders. The HLPF also included 12 special events, 10 exhibitions, 16 VNR Labs, and 141 in-person side events.

The forum examined progress in the context of the theme “*Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels*”. It conducted in-depth



reviews of five Sustainable Development Goals, namely Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (Goal 17).

During the HLPF ministerial segment, 38 countries presented Voluntary National Reviews. The European Union presented its first voluntary review. Countries stressed challenges that the ongoing crises represent to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges of recovery remain a main concern among countries because of the setbacks they represent for SDG achievement. Many countries stressed that access to finance is critical for countries to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

The HLPF underlined that collectively the world is not on track to meet the SDGs. Countries have been severely impacted by multiple interlocking crises that have further amplified pressing challenges, including those relating to poverty, food insecurity, inflation, debt and energy.

At the HLPF, we heard loud and clear that the world is falling radically short of financing the SDGs. A massive mobilization of resources is needed, including from private sources. Disturbingly, many countries, particularly in Africa, are allocating a greater share of resources for debt service than for public services.

There was a clear call for effective, accelerated, transformative action at all levels to achieve the SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind. Innovative policies and systemic changes are needed to support the SDGs, counter current global trends, and promote multistakeholder collaboration.

Countries stressed that the commitment to leave no one behind must be realized, including through actions supporting gender equality and addressing the challenges faced by children and youth. Vulnerable populations are key stakeholders and must be included in the decisions and actions for SDG implementation. The voices of women, girls and youth must also be amplified and acted upon to achieve all 17 SDGs.

**[Briefing on SDG Summit 2023]**



The HLPF served to identify priorities and helped build political momentum for SDG Summit. The Summit took place from 18-19 September, with 57 Heads of State/Vice Presidents, 30 Heads of Government, and 58 Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers taking the floor.

The Summit adopted an ambitious political declaration, which sends a strong political signal on the importance of reforming the international financial architecture. It also highlights the imperatives of human rights across the document. It resolves, “between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources.” It also resolves to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and step-up efforts to fight all forms of discrimination.

At the same time, the political declaration underscores the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that are based on respect for human rights, effective rule of law and good governance. It highlights concerns of how armed conflicts and human suffering undermines the realization of sustainable development. And it recommits to cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants.

### **[Conclusion]**

Ladies and gentlemen, at the midway point of the implementation of the SDG, we have a political declaration that calls on all of us to ensure that human rights remain at the heart of achieving sustainable development. ECOSOC remains committed to advance these core tenets upon which the 2030 Agenda is built. I thank the Human Rights Council for its involvement in the review of progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. On behalf of ECOSOC, I welcome your continued collaboration in the coming year, as we take forward the political declaration of the SDG Summit. I look forward to further collaboration and to advancing our shared objectives.